

## Belgian Strikers Remain Defiant

**Fail to See Why They Should  
Pay for Losses to Capitalists**

By Tom Kemp

BRUSSELS, Jan. 16 — At the end of three weeks of struggle, the workers of Belgium stand firm in the whole of the heavy industrial region of the French-speaking South, as well as in the more class-conscious sections of the Flemish North.

### Supreme Court Voids Travis' T-H Conviction

A long and costly legal battle forced upon a former official of the independent Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers ended in victory Jan. 16. The Supreme Court reversed the conviction of Maurice E. Travis, former secretary-treasurer of the union, on charges of filing false non-Communist affidavits with the Labor Relations Board.

The conviction was reversed on the ground that Travis should have been tried in the District of Columbia, where he filed affidavits in 1951 and 1952, and not in Denver.

The drive to imprison Travis marked the opening of a combined government-employer assault on the union which was expelled from the CIO in a cold-war move in 1950. Last year 17 present and former officials of the union were convicted on a similar charge. Indictments were brought against them at the height of bitterly fought strikes against the major copper producers.

Despite the union-busting drive, copper workers won a 1½-day strike last year at Anaconda Copper and a 181-day strike at Phelps Dodge. However, a seven-month strike at the Bunker Hill Co. in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, was broken in last month.

### Nigerians Score U.S. Racism

The National Council for Nigeria and the Cameroons, a major political party in Nigeria, has demanded that the government protest to the United States for racial discrimination in a Virginia restaurant against C. Uchoma, Second Secretary of the Nigerian Embassy.

"It is a matter of regret," said a statement to the press, "that America, self-appointed leader of the Western power blocs and great advocate of racial equality in other peoples' countries, should be a country to practice racial discrimination against the Nigerian Embassy."

The NCNC believes that a country devoid of respect for human dignity, a country with completely bankrupt racial policy, a country which still lives in the dark ages, has no claim to leadership of free men."

In the favorable conditions of postwar expansion, the workers have been able great

(Continued on Page 21)

### A Traveling Advocate Of World Brotherhood

By Harry Ring

The Rev. Ashton Jones is a tall, wiry man who speaks in a soft, pleasant way. When he walked into the Militant office one afternoon last week his tanned face and lumber jacket suggested an outdoor worker.

For the past 30 years he has been outdoors a good deal. Ashton (he believes all men are brothers and should call each other by their first name) is a traveling advocate of world brotherhood.

This occupation in his native South has kept him in the forefront of the integration struggle. For some time he and his wife, Marie, traveled in a trailer specially built on a truck chassis. To express the theme of brotherhood, the sides of the trailer were decorated with a white hand and a dark hand clasped together.

Marie is in poor health now and can no longer accompany her crusading husband. The trailer was wrecked by racists in Louisiana and with the aid of friends he has replaced it with a British compact car. Like the old trailer, banners on the car urge brotherhood.

(Continued on Page 2)

### Two American Heroes



Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter as they returned to the University of Georgia after their lives had been threatened by armed Ku Klux Klansmen.

### Ga. Racists Retreat On School Jim Crow

Under compulsion of new

federal court orders, the University of Georgia reinstated two Negro students Jan. 16. Four days earlier, university officials had bowed to a mob organized by the Ku Klux and had suspended the two students. Meanwhile, Gov. Vandiver outlined plans to the state legislature Jan. 18 to retreat from a policy of "massive resistance" to school desegregation one of legal evasion.

In the first three days after their return to the Athens, Ga., campus, Charlayne Alberta Hunter, 18, and Hamilton E. Holmes, 19, went quietly to classes, followed ten paces behind by plainclothesmen. Only occasional jeers greeted the courageous pair and a number of students made a point of extending friendly words of welcome.

The Background

What are the historical factors behind the present eruption of the class struggle in Belgium? The southern part of the country is the oldest industrial region in continental Europe. Its wealth is founded on coal and heavy industry. It possesses a large and tightly knit industrial working class with a high level of class consciousness.

The workers in this region are organized in a Socialist party with a parliamentary and reformist leadership, and in powerful trade unions. The unions are largely under the control of relatively young and dynamic leaders who emerged during the war or the postwar period.

In the favorable conditions of postwar expansion, the workers have been able great

(Continued on Page 21)

### Boston Crowd Gives Fuehrer Hot Reception

BOSTON, Jan. 16 — George Lincoln Rockwell, head of the swastika-wearing American Nazi party, who came to this city yesterday with a truckload of uniformed "storm troopers" from headquarters in Arlington, Va., got a hot reception.

Rockwell had announced his intention to picket the film "Exodus" which deals with Israel. By the time the führer arrived, a crowd of counter-pickets which police estimated from 2,000 to 10,000 had assembled. When they began chanting, "We Want Rockwell," as the Nazi chief appeared, police hustled him away.

The Harvard Crimson, estimating the crowd at 500, said today that part of the counter-pickets consisted of refugees from Nazi concentration camps. Many college students also showed up.

"Most of the students said they felt that the Nazis had a right to picket the theater," the paper continued, "but upheld their own picketing as 'the only way we can protest against what they stand for.'

"The Young Socialist Alliance, whose leaders were distributed all over the Boston area, had a small group of picketers. Many labor unions, including the ILGWU, also marched in protest. A young couple, carrying a baby, typified the sentiments of the rest of the crowd when they said, "We don't belong to any group, we just came down to do anything we can to help."

According to one newspaper account the truckload of Nazis never arrived, due to breakdowns and wrong turns. However, a few swastika-wearers did show up on schedule.

Ashton was in jail ten days before his wife and a lawyer were able to raise \$450 to post bond pending appeal.

During those ten days he was kicked down a flight of steel steps, lashed with a rawhide whip and confined to a sweatbox cell.

On release, he encountered the "law" again in Shreveport, La. (Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued on Page

## ...Traveling Advocate

(Continued from Page 1)

While eating in a Negro cafeteria, he was arrested by two cops, again on a vagrancy charge.

He was thrown into the bull pen, and a jailer showed the other prisoners news photos of him shaking hands with a Negro at Wiley College.

The prisoners beat him so savagely that he required four stitches in his jaw.

He was then held in solitary for four days before a hearing at which a judge ordered him to submit to psychiatric examination. That was another 17 days. The "psychiatrist," it turned out, was a member of the White Citizens Council.

Finally, a "trial" was set. By this time Marie had managed to secure the services of a local lawyer. But a previous case prevented the lawyer from being in court on the morning of Ashton's trial date. A request for a postponement was denied and Ashton was convicted, without counsel, of vagrancy and disturbing the peace. The sentence—eight months on a prison farm.

Prison farm officials permitted prisoners to beat him. They hung him from an upper bunk by the heels, shaved the hair from his head and body. He was taken to a lake and held under water some 25 times.

Finally, \$1,500 bond was raised and that particular nightmare ended.

For Ashton, there was a

### Unnoticed Oppression

Writing from Miami in the Jan. 19 New York Times, Sam Pope Brewer notes that most of those leaving Cuba are lawyers, doctors, engineers, etc. He offers this explanation:

"Most of the really poor in Cuba are said to be better off than before the revolution and not to notice the oppression."

## Calendar of Events

**DETROIT**  
"An Answer to Police Brutality"—speaker, Albert Stokes, of the Allied Citizens Defense League, Friday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. Ausp: Friday Night Socialist Forum.

**NEW YORK**

The Effect of the Cuban Revolution in Brazil and Argentina. A discussion of social problems and political developments in the major Latin-American countries. Speaker, Marvel Scholl, Friday, Jan. 27, 8:30 p.m. Militant Labor Forum, 116 University Place (off Union Sq.) Contrib: 50 cents.

**LOS ANGELES**  
"Labor in the 1960's"—An analysis of key trade union problems. Speaker, Jack Storm, veteran unionist and socialist, Friday, Jan. 27, 8:15 p.m. Forum Hall, 1702 East Fourth St. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. Contrib: 75 cents. Unemployed 25 cents.

**Two six-session seminars.** (1) Cuba and the Theory of the Permanent Revolution. Instructor, Theodore Edwards, socialist writer and radio commentator. From 11 a.m. to 12:30. (2) Rise and Decline of the American Communist Party. Instructors, Arne Swabeck, a founder of the Communist party, and Max Goldman, socialist lecturer and organizer. From 12:30 to 2 p.m. Both seminars on six consecutive Sundays beginning Jan. 29, at 1702 East Fourth St. Ausp: International School of Socialism. For reservations phone AN 9-4953 or WE 5-0238. Contrib: \$1.50 per series, 35 cents per individual session.

**TWIN CITIES**  
"Algeria—Referendum or Revolution?" Speaker, Mike Garsa. Friday, Jan. 27, 8:15 p.m. Twin Cities Labor Forum, 704 Hennepin Ave.

## Local Directory

**BOSTON**  
Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 200.

**CHICAGO**  
Socialist Workers Party, 302 South Canal St., Room 210, WE 9-5044.

**CLEVELAND**  
Socialist Workers Party, 5927 Euclid Ave., Room 23, Cleveland 3, Ohio.

**DENVER**  
Militant Labor Forum, 1227 California, Main 3-0993. For labor and socialist books, International Book Exchange, 1227½ California, Open 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Fri.

**DETROIT**  
Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward. Temple 1-6135.

**LOS ANGELES**  
Forum Hall and Modern Book Shop, Socialist Workers Party, 1702 East Fourth St. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238. Open 12 noon—3 p.m. daily, Sat. 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

**MILWAUKEE**  
150 East Juneau Ave.

bright, heartening side to this gruesome picture.

"A young white couple in Shreveport attended my trial," he said. "They became interested in the case and publicly associated themselves with me. They raised \$500 of the bond money."

"The young man was fired from his job and they had to move with their children to Texas."

"But they were quite willing to accept this persecution to stand up on this great issue of equality of all people. Isn't that wonderful?"

For Ashton, the Shreveport ordeal was far from over. To appeal his conviction, his lawyer required a bill of particulars from the court that tried him. At the beginning of this month, Ashton returned to Shreveport to confer with his lawyer. A block from the lawyer's office the cops grabbed him again. The charges—vagrancy and disturbing the peace.

### Back in Bull Pen

He was put back in the same bull pen and again beaten by prisoners.

To finish off the job, jailers kicked and stomped him and beat him with a rubber mallet.

The next morning his lawyer got him out on bail.

As he was driving out of town, the car still emblazoned with brotherhood banners, he stopped for gasoline. Near the entrance to the station another car forced him to the curb. A man leaped out, cursed and beat him and then proceeded to riddle the car's chassis with bullets.

"He obviously didn't intend to kill me," Ashton observed calmly. "He was too close to miss."

On Jan. 19, Ashton is due back in Shreveport to stand trial. He assumes he will be convicted and given the maximum six-month sentence on each of the two charges. Before returning to face this ordeal, he is seeking to raise bond money so he won't be put back in prison pending appeal if he's convicted.

How does he size up the struggle for racial equality at this point?

"Progress is being made so fast in the integration field," he said, "that it's causing a rather violent reaction among some of the rabid segregationists."

Does he need help?

Oh, no, he replied. The American Civil Liberties Union has entered the case and will handle any necessary appeals. (The ACLU has also demanded a federal investigation of the violation of Ashton's civil rights by the Shreveport police.) Also, the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee plans a suit against Shreveport officials under the federal civil-rights act.

There are still legal fees for Ashton to take care of, though. And there's still the problem of food and gasoline.

Anyone who wants to help out on this should send a contribution care of Mrs. Marie Jones, 3640 Denton Ave., So. Gabrielle, Calif. She will forward it.

### Negro Unionists Stake Workshop

The Negro American Labor Council, an organization of Negro unionists, will hold a national workshop in Washington, D.C., Feb. 17 and 18. Subject of the workshop will be race bias in labor, industry and government. The council is striving to have 5,000 of its supporters participate.

An announcement of the gathering pointed to growing unemployment among Negroes and the additional urgency this places on working out practical steps to combat discrimination in apprentice training programs, Jim Crow union practices and in the field of government contract work.

Information on the workshop in absolute figures rose to a high in July and then began turning downward, plunging 1.2 million in December to a total of 66.0 million.

Ordinarily a seasonal rise occurs in December. No exception to this was noted in 1960, but the rise was so small that when the proper adjustment was taken into account, the statisticians had to list payroll employment in nonagricultural establishments as having dropped by 370,000 in December.

"The rise was unusually small for this time of the year," says the Labor Department report, as "normally there is an increase of well over half a million jobs as the sharp Christmas expansion in trade and post office employment far outweighs the declines in construction and other outdoor work."

This December, however, the usual Christmas employment rise (the figure was 180,000) was offset by an unusually sharp decline of 300,000 jobs in construction and a further downturn in manufacturing employment.

Manufacturing employment

## Hopes in Kennedy Are Due for Rude Awakening

By Cyrus Thomas

"Organized labor had a bleak year" in 1960, says New York Times labor expert A. H. Raskin in the Jan. 9 year-end review published by the newspaper, "but it hopes for a cheerier climate under the Kennedy Administration."

Summing up the dismal 1960 record, Raskin points out that "Unemployment, slack business conditions and stiffer management resistance at the bargaining table combined to hold down union wage gains in 1960. To add to labor's unhappiness, higher living costs and a slight reduction in the average work week wiped out the effect of hourly pay scales."

"The result," Raskin concludes, "was that the average factory worker wound up the year with less purchasing power in his weekly wage envelope than he had at the start."

What Raskin describes is the steady deterioration in the workers' standard of living. This reduction in the purchasing power of the working people serves to accelerate the deepening recession.

### Escalation Issue

The postwar economy has been marked by an almost uninterrupted hike in prices that piled one increase after another onto the cost of living. In defense against the worst effects of price inflation many unions fought for and won the escalator clause in the union contract. The clause provides for an automatic wage increase with each percentage increase in living costs.

Recently the corporations have undertaken a fierce campaign to take away from the unions the protection against inflation provided by the escalator clause.

The steel corporations succeeded in emasculating the union escalator clause in the 116-day strike last year. The railroad magnates attacked the cost-of-living clause in the union contract. More recently the figures given by Business Week for auto.

"The c-of-l clause," it says, "has added 51 cents an hour to UAW wages since 1948. The annual improvement factor clause (for deferred raises of 2½ percent or 6 cents an hour, whichever is larger) had added another 61 cents an hour over the same period."

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Manufacturing employment



"The key planks," writes Bernard D. Nossiter, staff reporter for the Washington Post, Jan. 6, "adopted at a special meeting of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, match President-elect Kennedy's own minimum program."

Nossiter adds: "The Council, top policy-making body for the federation had been urged by some in labor to go beyond Mr. Kennedy's plans. But on the central items, President George Meany led the Council down the Administration's road."

The first five points, labeled by Meany "as those we have given the most concern to," called for: aid to depressed areas; bigger urban slum removal and public housing programs; funds for school buildings and teachers' salaries; raising the present \$1 minimum wage to \$1.25 and extending its coverage; and health care for the aged tied to the Social Security system.

The five points of "most concern" to Meany figured prominently in the Kennedy election campaign "economic recovery" program. None pretend to deal with the immediate question of providing relief for the growing army of unemployed workers. All were tailored to avoid going beyond the limits set by the Kennedy forces.

Conspicuous by its absence from the AFL-CIO "20-point program" was the demand for a reduction of the work week with no reduction in pay. Failure of the AFL-CIO Executive Council to endorse this demand has doomed the campaign of the Steel Workers union directed at Congress for legislating into existence the 32-hour week.

Elimination of the escalator clause in the face of a constantly increasing cost of living means a slash in the workers' living standards. Why the corporations are eager to eliminate escalation is indicated by the figures given by Business Week for auto.

"The c-of-l clause," it says, "has added 51 cents an hour to UAW wages since 1948. The annual improvement factor clause (for deferred raises of 2½ percent or 6 cents an hour, whichever is larger) had added another 61 cents an hour over the same period."

But what does the Kennedy administration have in store for the American workers? A good indication can be gained from the report entitled "Prospects and Policies for the 1961 American Economy." [See last week's Militant.]

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Subscription: \$3 a year; Canadian, \$3.50; foreign, \$4.50.

## THE MILITANT

Second class postage paid  
at New York, N.Y.

Editor: JOSEPH HANSEN Managing Editor: DANIEL ROBERTS Business Manager: KAROLYN KERRY Published weekly, except from July 11 to Sept. 5 when published biweekly, by the Militant Publishing Assn., 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y. Phone CH 3-2140. Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's policies. These are expressed in editorials.

Vol. XXV — No. 4

Monday, January 23, 1961

## The Ban on Visiting Cuba

As far as the State Department is concerned, only thieves and liars may travel to Cuba.

That's the essence of the Jan. 16 announcement that U.S. citizens are not permitted to visit Cuba unless they have a passport specifically endorsed for such travel. They can't get that endorsement unless they are businessmen having investments in the island or are newsmen whose trip would serve "the best interest of the United States."

In other words, it's OK to go to Cuba if you're one of the robber band hungry to resume extracting profits from the island's economy or if you're a professional propagandist who will feed this country's communication media with lies and slanders against the revolution.

The claimed reason for the ban — that the U.S. now has no embassy to provide "normal protective service" for its citizens — is a patent fraud. The U.S. has officially recognized diplomatic representation in Cuba — the Swiss legation — which is perfectly capable of handling any problem that might arise relative to a U.S. citizen there.

The real reason the State Department doesn't want ordinary citizens to visit Cuba is indicated in a Jan. 16 AP dispatch which says the travel ban "is likely to curb the efforts of the Cuban government to organize active support in the United States . . ."

The report also cites the view of an anonymous "Latin-American diplomat" that "one of the most immediate effects should be a curb on the activities of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee . . ."

That committee has tried to get as many people as it could to go and see for themselves what is happening in Cuba; and the Cuban government has welcomed all legitimate visitors.

## Victim of the United Nations

On Jan. 18 the Associated Press sent a dispatch from Elisabethville, the Congo, reporting that Pres. Joseph Kasavubu, who is supported by Washington, had turned Premier Patrice Lumumba and two other captive government figures over to Moise Tshombe, puppet of the Belgian imperialists in Katanga province.

Admission of the delivery of the legal head of the Congo government to the Belgian puppet came a day after an agreement was announced between Kasavubu and Tshombe to hold a "round-table conference" of Congolese politicians some time in February.

Here is how the AP described the delivery of Lumumba into Tshombe's power:

Swedish UN troops on guard here when Lumumba arrived said he and two fellow prisoners got "a terrific beating" from Katanga police at the airport. The other two prisoners were the Youth Minister in Lumumba's cabinet, Maurice Mpolo, and the Vice President of the Congo Senate, Joseph Okito.

"It was sickening," one of the soldiers said. "Lumumba and the other two were dragged off the plane. They were trussed with ropes and tied together. They had little freedom of movement. Then the gendarmes — African and whites — surrounded them and the Africans assaulted them over a longish period. Lumumba and the other two fell to the ground where they were clubbed, hit in the face with rifle butts, and kicked and pummeled."

"The gendarmes let them lie for awhile and then resumed their beating." "I had to turn away," said an airport official. "It was too much for me to watch."

Lumumba and his companions reportedly groaned while the assault was taking place but did not protest or ask for mercy.

This is an eloquent story but it is not

complete. It does not reveal where the final responsibility lies for this bit of savagery which so fittingly opens the year 1961 A.D.

As legally elected head of the Congo government, Lumumba made a tragic mistake. With the best of intentions he invited the United Nations into his newly freed country to help solve its economic and social problems.

The UN with a fine Machiavellian hand immediately began undermining Lumumba; and when Kasavubu and Mobutu seized power it placed its weight behind this unsavory pair.

The UN acted in this way because it is dominated by Washington. The big corporations who rule through the Republicans and Democrats stand with the Belgian imperialists insofar as they have not yet taken over the Belgian role themselves. One of the big stakes in the Congo is the rich radioactive ore bodies needed in producing nuclear energy.

All these reactionary interests and forces were concentrated in those rifle butts that pounded the premier of the Congo government as he lay groaning on the ground.

It was a stiff price to pay for the illusion that the United Nations would help him to bring peace and prosperity to his country.

Let us hope that we in America do not finally have to pay in an even costlier way for the illusion that the United Nations represents the road to world peace.

## To Our

Beginning with our next issue, the Militant will change its format to a tabloid.

Some of our readers have long advocated such a change on the ground that it would provide greater flexibility and tend to make articles more readable by shortening them. We hope that this proves to be the case but we must admit that we are making the change at this time primarily for a different reason; namely — finances.

Along with the general inflation which all our readers feel through the rising cost of living, printing costs have steadily mounted in recent years and we have found increasing difficulty in meeting them. By turning to a tabloid we are able to reduce costs without affecting frequency of publication although our weekly space will be more limited.

For a time we will print four pages. As events require (and funds permit) we will from time to time increase the number of pages. We hope that it will not be too

## Readers

long until we can expand to eight pages. It is strictly a financial problem as we have a number of first-rate writers at present and new promising writers beginning to make their first contributions.

Our circulation expanded most encouragingly during the election campaign and every indication is that it will continue to grow. Many of our new readers have written enthusiastic letters about the Militant, have been passing it on to their friends, and they in turn have widened our circle of supporters.

We think that this is one of the heartening signs of a growing interest among many sections of the population in socialist ideas, portending a big surge forward for the socialist movement and its press in America in the days ahead.

So take advantage of the tabloid, size by putting more Militants in your pocket each week for distribution where they will do the most good.

## Two Trends in United Auto Workers Union

By M. L. Stafford

DETROIT — Two trends can be seen in the United Auto Workers as the union approaches its special convention in April to draw up demands for the contract negotiations with the auto corporations next summer.

One is the growing support among the members and locals for provisions to cut the work week to 30 hours without any cut in weekly take-home pay.

It is the most popular demand today among auto workers — employed and unemployed, skilled and unskilled.

They see 30-for-40 as an answer to unemployment and automation, which have cost the UAW members more than 200,000 jobs in the last five years. And they want their union to make it the number one demand in this year's contract negotiations.

## Makes Good Speeches

But wanting and getting are two different things. Which brings us to the second trend in the union — its leadership's obvious determination to prevent the convention from making 30-for-40 the major demand.

Visiting workers begin to see that union-hating monopolies are quite essential to the development of a country's economy.

Those concerned with farm problems are offered convincing evidence of the superiority of cooperatives and state farms.

Above all, visitors see that it is not utopian to seek to establish a government that is really interested in the welfare of the people.

Washington can't provide "protective service" against the revolutionizing influence of the impressive gains made by the Cuban people. They can't brainwash the ordinary American so thoroughly that the rational new society being built in Cuba has no effect on his thinking.

That's why the State Department now insists that everyone, except the businessmen it represents and the "news" reporters on their payrolls, must stay home.

The editor of the Monthly Review proposed that the U.S. reverse its catastrophic policy toward Cuba. The first step should be immediate withdrawal from Guantanamo. The U.S. should stop encouraging and assisting counter-revolutionary forces operating here and elsewhere.

Diplomatic relations should be resumed as well as trade on the basis of equality. He suggested negotiations on compensation for American investors whose holdings have been taken over, again, on the basis of equality and bearing in mind the superprofits these investors have already taken out of Cuba.

Now, three years later, Reuther isn't going to be able to sell the advocates of the shorter week quite so easily.

Although nobody took Reuther's profit-sharing plan seriously, and he himself dropped it out of sight as soon as the negotiations began, he was able to get the 1958 convention to dump the fight for the shorter week. One factor that helped him was the delegates' lack of organization and cohesion at the convention.

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A New Opposition

For one thing, their numbers

have grown. Resolutions sup-

porting 30-for-40 are being passed

now not only by locals with

an anti-Reuther record, but also

by locals whose leaders have al-

ways been loyal Reutherites.

Refraining from the shorter week

is not the same as supporting 30-for-40.

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**To Help Build a New Cuba**

The Cubans sought to buy farm machines from the U.S. to step up agricultural production. When they were turned down, they had to seek help from the Soviet bloc countries. In this picture a member of a cooperative in Pinar del Rio drives a much-used American-made tractor. Signs over the motor read "Cooperation. Employees Routes 10-41." The label "INRA," signifying government ownership, is seen everywhere in Cuba today.

**"Life Can Be Wonderful"**

By Harry Ring

It's no puzzle to Ed Graham why the State Department has clamped a ban on travel to Cuba. A long-time merchant seaman, Ed knew the old Cuba. As a participant in the Fair Play for Cuba Committee's Christmas tour, he got a good look at the new Cuba.

He had other bases for comparison, too. He has been a leader in the fight against the government's screening of militant maritime unionists as "security risks." So he knows something about problems of democracy and justice.

Havana was the first foreign port Ed ever visited. Back in 1932 he was lucky enough to get a regular run on a cruise ship out of New York that stopped regularly at Havana.

Ed fell in love with Havana the first time he saw it. But it's a lot different now, he adds.

"I'll never forget my first time ashore there. One of the crew asked me to mail a letter. There was a post office a few blocks from the dock. I only had a few hours ashore so I went running up the steps of the post office. Suddenly a soldier jumped in front of me and jabbed a rifle in my belly. When he saw I was a foreign seaman he stepped aside. But I got the quick feeling of what could have happened to a Cuban. It was a taste of the Machado dictatorship.

"But I was still fascinated by the country. It was so beautiful and the people were so warm even then. But that was during the worst of the depression and they were desperate to get a few cents to stay alive on. The port swarmed with cab drivers, beggars, kids, and, of course, pimps and prostitutes.

"What a world of difference today! The people are still warm and friendly, but they're not looking for your money. Their dignity and pride I've never seen in any country."

That's the big inspiring thing for Ed. "Human nature," he says, almost with awe, "has changed in Cuba."

**One Big Family**

"This is a small example, but it impressed an old sailor. I was changing pesos for dollars at the airport and dropped a 20-peso note on the floor. A militiaman noticed it. He tapped me on the

shoulder and handed it to me. He was struck by the artistic quality of the architecture. At the same time, as an old do-it-yourselfer, he looked closely at workmanship. "The doors are well hung. The windows open and close the way they should. The plumbing seems good quality."

"It's all just wonderful," he exclaimed. "I never thought it would happen to me—I've been a dissenter all my life—but I didn't find one really important thing to criticize. And don't forget, I'm not a 16-year-old kid struck by a glamorous star. But it's just unbelievable what's being done there."

"I really got a kick out of it," he laughed, "the way they're showing up us 'practical' Yankees. They've got big dreams and they're artistic, but they're a hell of a lot more practical than we are."

Ed is deeply concerned about Washington's hostility against Cuba. But he thinks Cuba is going to help change the U.S. "Cuba is the best hope for this country," he said. "It's a wonderful poke in the nose to our arrogance and a real stimulus to start us on the road to sanity."

"Cuba proves that life can be good. Workmanship

The new housing program made a big impression on Ed.

**Has an "Intensification Of Relaxation" Hit You?**

Or about an "intensification of the relaxation" (International Monetary Fund's Managing Director Per Jacobsson). Or about "high-level creeping stagnation." These last unlovely words constituted the diagnosis of Charles L. Schultze, an Indiana University economist, testifying before Senator Douglas' Joint Economic Committee of Congress.

Or is it that doing nothing leaves you with a feeling of creeping stagnation?

You're suffering an intensification of nervousness resulting from enforced relaxation?

Nowadays, we keep hearing about, say, "a sidewise movement with a slight slippage in industrial production" (Henry C. Alexander of Morgan Guaranty). Or about a "deflation of inflationary tendencies" (FRB Chairman William McChesney Martin, Jr.).

With that point established, he asked five economists present that day whether in their opinion we are in a "recession or contraction" right now. They said that we are. But the vote was three to two.

With that point established, he asked five economists present that day whether in their opinion we are in a "recession or contraction" right now. They said that we are. But the vote was three to two.

Millions of people across the globe may go hungry but as of Aug. 1 four nations — the U.S., Canada, Argentina and Australia — had a combined total surplus of 2.7 billion bushels of wheat.

Carl lived long enough and full enough to accomplish what he was capable of and he died in a good way."

Cannon said that sadness was

**How to Sell 'Happy Way'**

By Arthur Jordan

Two sterling products of the Mississippi Way of Life, a judge and an ex-editor, extolled its many blessings to a psychology class at New York University a few days ago. Their audience was quizzical, unregenerate and — alas! — unsegregated.

The two apostles brought "The Message from Mississippi," a 27-minute film purporting to show how Negroes and whites can best keep "cooperating" and "making progress" by being kept apart. "Fine race relations . . ." purred the sound track as a tiny Negro girl knowingly hoisted her drinking cup in a "For Colored" section.

One film scene showing a white librarian with Negro pupils puzzled an NYU girl. Later she asked just where Jim Crow lines applied. "The schools, churches and practically all areas of life are segregated," replied Judge Robert P. Suggs, "but . . . I don't know, you just have to live with it and grow up with it to know . . ."

When another student asked why there are only 60 Negro doctors and nine Negro lawyers in Mississippi, Erle Johnston, Jr., ex-editor turned salaried state "public relations director," patiently explained that "Negroes prefer to go to white doctors." But why no Negro medical school in Mississippi? the questioner persisted. Slipping into his accustomed vernacular, Johnston dryly observed that "any nigger who wants to can get" out of state medical aid.

The 15-minute question period abruptly closed when Suggs and Johnston announced they had to catch an early plane — for Mississippi. They hoped the students would remember the "Message" summarized by Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett in the film.

Thanks to his state's costly "equalization" program "no student can get a better education than . . . the colored children . . . in Mississippi," Barnett proudly affirms.

But according to President C. R. Darden of the Mississippi NAACP, the program is "a big monstrosity of brainwashing, downgrading techniques which cripple our children . . ." While new "Negro" schools have been built, pupils have to ride 80 miles a day to get to them, and they are still inferior to "white" schools close by.

As to statements that a majority of Mississippi Negroes favor segregation, Darden says, "No white man can make an . . . objective analysis . . . as long as he has rope . . . around the Negro's neck and a gun in his back . . ."

If a Mississippi Negro escapes the gun or rope, he may get seven years hard labor instead — the sentence recently given Clyde Kennard for "stealing five bags of feed" — after he tried to enter an all-white college.

When a Negro lawyer dared to criticize Kennard's sentence, he got 30 days and a \$100 fine.

Perhaps, Sugg and Johnston may have reflected, the timing of their tour was not too auspicious. A few days before, another "Mississippi item" hit the press. Two teen-age white brothers mounted their motorcycle and rode off to fire a volley of shots into a crowd of Negroes, wounding two. Just two more products of "cooperation" and "progress" intoxicated with the spirit of "fine race relations."

Carl lived long enough and full enough to accomplish what he was capable of and he died in a good way."

Cannon said that sadness was

**Not Enough Bread?**

"A nuclear attack on our country would create a fire problem unparalleled in history. We have therefore put great emphasis on preparing our fire-fighting forces to meet this threat." —Henry Thomas of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

have apparently been penalized by being denied hospital appointments.

Cyclops Army — Revised Defense Department standards will permit the drafting of one-eyed men in a total mobilization but will exclude color blind at all times. A spokesman said color blindness is dangerous and expensive in the atomic age.

Doctor Shortage? — Commenting on the lack of qualified medical personnel in some hospitals, a Jan. 6 Milwaukee Journal editorial observed: "Some very fine Jewish and Negro doctors say that it would be absolutely useless for them to apply for staff appointments at certain hospitals though other, and perhaps lesser, doctors are getting such appointments right along. Doctors who incurred displeasure of the old, conservative medical associations by espousing or participating in 'group practice,' for example,

such as the waltz or polka are 'morally innocuous.' Morally dangerous such dances as the rumba and mambo which bring 'contacts at intervals.' Bordering on sin are such 'external contact' dances as the fox trot and one step."

Rights Fighters — The Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, dedicated to promoting church participation in the integration movement, met in Williamsburg, Va., the first week in January. Three Negro delegates reported that they had been denied service in a local restaurant and proposed that the society stage a sit-in demonstration. The society voted instead to ask the pro-

**'A Life that Was Fully Lived'**

By Della Rossa

A "celebration of a life that was fully lived, up to the very last hour" was held at Forum Hall Jan. 7 when the Los Angeles local of the Socialist Workers party paid "affectionate and respectful tribute" to Carl Skoglund, who died last month at the age of seventy-six.

Oscar G. Coover, chairman of the meeting, who was introduced as a three-day-old infant, forty years ago, to Skoglund, and who remained Carl's close friend to the end, set the "celebration" note of the meeting with, "I can think of no better life than the life that Carl Skoglund lived. He lived his life fully, serving what he believed in, and he fought vigorously for that."

There were many penalties that he suffered as a consequence of those ideas," Coover said: "but he had the grand feeling of being with the people he wanted to be associated with and of never having compromised on basic principles. And he lived his life in the best traditions of the socialist movement."

**Met Him in 1923**

Cannon said that he first met Skoglund in 1923 in Minneapolis and had been with him ever since — in the Communist party, in the Trotskyist movement, and in the big strikes in Minneapolis, where I had a chance to get closer to him and to see him in action in the mass movement and get a profounder appreciation of his many-sided qualities than I had before."

"And we were together in prison," Cannon went on, "and everywhere else. Carl was not alone. I can't think of him as a single individual. He was one of that remarkable group of workers Bolsheviks in Minneapolis

who worked and fought so long and so consistently and brought so much credit and glory to our movement in the Minneapolis struggles. And all that remains with us and can never be taken away."

**In the Dog Days**

Rather than the prominence that Skoglund gained in the Minneapolis labor movement and the world-wide attention given the 1934 strikes, Cannon said he remembered Skoglund "most affectionately and most gratefully for the quiet, unobtrusive things he did to help keep the Militant alive in the first hard years."

Skoglund had been blacklisted out of a good-paying job as a railroad mechanic because he was chairman of the strike committee in 1923. When he found work it was in a coal yard.

He was in that humble occupation in the early dog days of the Militant when every week represented an agonizing financial crisis.

Out of his meager wages, Skoglund sometimes contributed as much as half to help the Militant carry on its obligation to tell the truth about the emancipating struggle for socialism and especially how this struggle was being hampered by Stalinism.

"I thought his death and the circumstances of it," Cannon said, "were so representative and symbolic of his whole life that even in our sorrow there is a certain cause for rejoicing about the way it happened."

Just a few days before his death he contributed \$100 to help the Socialist Workers party. It was only after he died that it was discovered he had only \$174 to his name.

At Mountain Spring Camp, where he worked the last years of his life, he helped install a new boiler. A day or so after the job was completed, he sat around with some young socialists who had helped put in the boiler, celebrating how perfectly the new equipment functioned.

All were in good spirits on

this Sunday evening, Carl joining in the banter and exchange of ideas with his usual good humor. Then he fell out of his chair and in a few minutes was dead from a heart attack.

"The whole three sides of his, systematic, persistent life were represented in his last hour," Cannon said. "Talk for socialism, work for socialism, and even if you've only got \$174 to your name at the end of a lifetime of work, that's Carl."

In Los Angeles his comrades were saying, "He died with his boots on." And they celebrated a life that was fully lived, up to the very last hour.

**What Johnny Gets to Read In School**

• "Some minorities have been ridiculed for inferior education and living standards. Jews, on the other hand, it is alleged, 'succeed too well too fast.' They do 'too well' in business. They are too able in school. They are called 'pushers.'"

• "In the 1920's, Hitler constantly attacked the feebleness of the Republic that tolerated the traitorous acts of Jews and Communists."

• "Very likely it is best that people of different races should not be forced to live where the differences between them might cause unpleasantness."

• "In the post Civil War period, the Ku Klux Klan administered whippings to unruly Negroes."

**Widely Used Texts**

Those four anti-Negro and anti-Semitic quotations are from textbooks which the Anti-Defamation League says are among those "most widely used" in junior and senior high schools.

A leading spokesman for an American textbook publisher conceded the texts aren't "as good as they ought to be."



JAMES P. CANNON

**Letters from Our Readers****Blockade of Cuba An Act of War**

Editor:

A blockade of Cuba, fenced in with battleships and submarines, will be a brazen attack upon world free trade and freedom of the seas. It means war and so does a blockade of any other Latin-American country.

Monopoly capital has invaded every country of the world, hogs it all and eats everything up from the people. It does not want to share even a crumb.

It's stealing the markets, business, profits and rentals of every country in the world and they will unite with the Communist bloc to drive it out because the hogs are in their fields devouring everything.

The proper place to attack monopoly and cut it off at the roots is on its own soil. Get your industries and business out of foreign countries, monopolists, before you are struck by lightning.

A few remarks—I endorse the stand you took in your Dec. 12 issue when you refused to print a letter from a reader because he failed to identify himself. Such are afraid of capitalist snake bites should stay off the trail of free speech.

Enjoyed the clever wit in the article about the Cuban electrical workers — about the Cuban woman the papers said ripped the tires off cars and about capitalism's pretentious concern for labor union rights.

Also, recently I was chatting with a Republican neighbor and he remarked, "That Khrushchev is insane, waving his shoe at the UN like a maniac."

I conceded, perhaps. However, Christ must have been even more insane when he upset the money tables, turned loose the cattle and whipped the capitalist money changers from the temple. No comment.

D.W. E.

Chicago

**Favors Tabloid**

Editor:

A tabloid size for the Militant would be easier to handle and make for a more attractive layout.

The light touch on your back page is an improvement.

M.B.

San Francisco

[See next week's issue.]

Editor:

I am interested in corresponding with members of the National Committee for Democratic Action in the United Automobile Workers Union. I understand this group is calling for the 30-hour week and democratic action in the UAW.

I have been calling for 30-hour for more than eight years and asking for democratic action by the rank and file, particularly on political matters.

I have also called for election of international officers and regional directors by direct voting.

Would like to hear from UAW members interested in same.

J.E.P.

Paterson, N.J.

**Wants to Hear From Members Of Auto Union**

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